

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 24 and 28 have been amended. Claims 27 and 29-31 have been cancelled. Claims 24, 26 and 28 are pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 24, 26, 27, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikuchi (JP 58-17028) (hereinafter "Kikuchi").

Claims 24 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki (US 5,934,667) (hereinafter "Miki") in view of Kikuchi.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 31 and is therefore now believed to be in a condition for allowance. Claims 27, 29 and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 26 and 28 depend on claim 24 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claim 31 has been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 31 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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